Interpellations and Answers.

Mr. John Mackie.

1 Q.—In view of the present period of depression through which the tea industry is passing, necessitating the closing down of some estates and the drastic curtailment of output in others, and in view of the fact that foreign-grown tea is exempt from such tax, will the Government be pleased to abolish the present export duty of Re. 1 as. 8 per 100 lbs. made tea?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

1 A.—Government regret that their financial condition does not admit of action being taken on the lines suggested by the Member.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

2 Q.—(*a*) With reference to the auction sale of the privilege of vending arrack and toddy in independent shops for the biennial period 1096—97, held towards the close of last year, will the Government kindly state whether any of the purchasers of arrack or toddy shops in that auction sale have committed default in the payment of the usual deposit or of any kist subsequently due for any month till the end of Medam last, resulting in the cancellation of the license in respect of their shops?

(*b*) And, if so, will the Government kindly give a statement of such shops showing the following particulars, *viz.*,

(i) the name or number and range of the shop;
(ii) the amount for which it was purchased in the auction sale;
(iii) the date of cancellation of the license;
(iv) the date of the resale, or the date fixed for the resale of the shop;
(v) the reason for the cancellation of the license, *i. e.*, whether the default was in the payment of the deposit or of any kist subsequently due, and, if the latter, the month or months in respect of which such default occurred; and
(vi) the amount for which it was purchased at the resale?

(*c*) Will the Government also kindly state whether they can account for these defaults, having regard to their number and nature?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

2 A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement giving the information required by the member is placed on the table (*vide* Appendix I).

(*c*) The total number of independent shops in the State is 1612, while the number in respect of which licenses have been cancelled is only 35. There is nothing unusual in this.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

3 Q.—Will the Government kindly state in what stage the proposed Trivandrum Water-Supply Scheme stands at present, when the work is likely to be started and what the estimated cost is? Will the Government kindly expedite the matter?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

3 A.—The investigation is over and the scheme awaits the completion of estimates which is being delayed for want of data concerning the value of machinery and other materials. These data are expected to be obtained shortly.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

4 Q.—Will the Government kindly state the total amount spent during each of the last three years on the public service of the State, *i. e.*, the amount spent each year by way of salaries and allowances to all kinds of servants under Government, superior, subordinate, permanent and temporary?

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

4 A.—The total expenditure under 'salaries and establishment' including allowances was, during 1093, Rs. 57,18,631, during 1094, Rs. 58,44,129, and during 1095, Rs. 62,49,566.

Mr. John Nidiry.

5 Q.—(*a*) Are not Government aware of the very urgent need of communications in North and Central Travancore, intensified by the recent stimulus in agriculture, industry and trade, and the speedy and comfortable travelling afforded by motor vehicles?

(*b*) Have Government noticed the very large and laudable activity evinced by the people in North and Central Travancore in the matter of opening public roads by private enterprise? Has not this work of the people saved Government several lakhs of rupees?

(*c*) Are Government aware that this activity is due to—

(1) the delay on the part of Government to do what was necessary either for want of funds or by the indiscriminate distribution of the same, or lack of sympathy on the part of the officers concerned;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly